

U.S. Application No.: NEW
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3926.211

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following paragraph after the title:

Cross Reference To Related Application

[0001] This application is a **national stage** of PCT/EP2004/000587 filed January 24, 2004 and based upon DE 103 12 087.4 filed March 19, 2003 under the International Convention.

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to a method for testing the function of a hydraulic valve, ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ and to a test bench for testing the function of hydraulic valves, ~~as claimed in claim 13.~~

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] To achieve the object, ~~a method having the features of claim 1 is proposed. There is~~ provision for using a pressurized gaseous medium as the test medium for testing the function of a hydraulic valve is proposed. Air is preferably used as the test medium. As a the result of the pneumatic testing of the hydraulic valve, the test time can be reduced markedly, as compared with the known test methods, since, in particular, the connection of the hydraulic valve to a test medium supply is markedly simpler. The further advantage is that, owing to the

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use of a gaseous test medium, no oil impurities caused by the function test arise during the manufacturing process.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] The subject of the invention is also a test bench for testing the function of hydraulic valves, which is suitable for carrying out the method ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12~~. The pneumatic test bench for testing the function of hydraulic valves has, in particular, the advantage that, owing to the gaseous test medium used, impurities in the surroundings can be ruled out. The test bench can therefore be integrated readily into the manufacturing process of the hydraulic valves.